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# Auto Union Insists: Act on Key Issues

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By WILLIAM ALLAN

DETROIT — Emil Mazey, secretary-treasurer of the United Auto Workers, told The Worker Saturday that the resignation by his union's top officers from the AFL-CIO's governing bodies were decided upon because "a way must be found to discuss all of the new situations" in the world. The implication was that this was not possible at present in the top AFL-CIO councils.

"We are like in a strike situation," said Mazey. "You use whatever power you have to win your points."

He said the action was "intended to improve the quality of discussions in the top echelons of the AFL-CIO," and was not an indication that the UAW was leaving the federation.

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Resignations were submitted to the AFL-CIO Friday by Walter P. Reuther, president of the UAW, who quit the AFL-CIO executive council and other bodies; Mazey quit the general board and several committees, and Leonard Woodcock and Pat Greathouse, UAW vice-presidents, resigned from the social security committee and education committee respectively.

Reuther's resignation did not affect the presidency of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department, to which belong nearly half the federation's 13 million members.

The UAW statement announcing the resignations said that the UAW's collective bargaining convention to be held April 20-22 would include "as subject for discussion and convention action a review of the relationship of the UAW with the AFL-CIO."

The statement said that a letter "clarifying the basis for this action" will be sent promptly to all local unions.

The Administration-linked policies of George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, which have been stifling the militancy of the labor movement, were dealt a blow with the resignations.

The action reflects the growing anger in labor's ranks to the cold war foreign policy of the AFL-CIO leadership which has been devised by Jay Lovestone, Meany's "foreign minister" and a close associate of the CIA.

## UAW LETTER

The UAW's estimate of Meany's deficiencies on the domestic front were stated in an Administrative Letter which the UAW international executive board sent to all locals in December.

The letter charged that the AFL-CIO "suffers from a sense of complacency and adherence to the status quo and is not fulfilling the basic aims and purposes which prompted the merger of the AFL and the CIO."

It stated that the differences between the UAW and its parent body "concern democratic trade union principles and policies, sound union programs and their effective implementation."

The UAW, the letter said, agrees with the AFL-CIO about resisting "communist aggression," but added:

"We feel that an affirmative, constructive role should be undertaken by the AFL-CIO in matters involving international affairs which will promote and strengthen the efforts of free people in their search to find a basis for building a just and enduring peace."

## LACK "SOCIAL VISION"

The letter accused the AFL-CIO of lacking "the social vision, the dynamic thrust, the crusading spirit that should characterize the progressive, modern labor movement."

The letter outlined programs which the UAW contends should be advanced by the AFL-CIO. Included are:

- An all-out "organizational crusade." The letter noted that the AFL-CIO today represents a smaller proportion of the U.S. labor force than at the time of its merger in December 1955.
- Committing adequate financial and staff resources to organize the farm and migratory workers.
- Taking a more militant position on wage and collective bargaining policy.
- Greater involvement in the effort to improve education, social security and other programs for senior citizens, and fighting for a system of national health insurance.
- "Deeper commitment" in the war on poverty and for "equal rights and equal opportunity not only at the community level and through legislation but within the labor movement itself."
- Providing leadership in the rebuilding of our cities and in fighting for programs that deal effectively with air and water pollution.

The letter complained that "issues such as these are not subject to creative, frank and meaningful democratic discussion within the highest councils of the AFL-CIO."

## FOREIGN POLICY

UAW opposition to the Meany-Lovestone foreign policy reflects the growing unrest in the labor movement toward that policy, highlighted by the formation of the Trade Union Division of SANE with chapters in N. Y.-N. J., Chicago and Los Angeles. Top union leaders, such as Abe Feinglass of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters, also began speaking out against the war policy of the White House and the AFL-CIO executive council.

Disagreement with the Johnson administration's foreign policy had come to the fore even prior to the UAW convention last May. Victor Reuther, head of the UAW's international

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